Committee on Ways and Means

U.S.-Morocco FTA: Good for Agriculture

- The American Farm Bureau strongly supports this agreement because for every $1 in increased imports from Morocco, U.S. farmers can expect $10 in increased exports to Morocco.

- In 2003, the United States had a trade surplus in agricultural products with Morocco of about $82 million, with exports over $152 million. The Farm Bureau estimates that the Free Trade Agreement (FTA) could increase U.S. agricultural exports to over $450 million by 2015, tripling our current exports.

- Because liberalization of agricultural trade is included in this FTA and NOT in the European Union-Morocco Association Agreement, new commercial opportunities for U.S. exporters are very likely.

- The Agreement contains a "preference clause" which will automatically grant the United States access equivalent to any access Morocco may provide in agreements with other countries.

- The Agreement contains a special agricultural safeguard to protect our sensitive horticulture products.

BEEF

- The Farm Bureau estimates that U.S. exports of beef could increase from the current level of a mere $200,000 per year to over $27 million per year by 2015.

- Morocco has agreed to accept U.S. inspection standards for products imported from the United States.

POULTRY

- The Farm Bureau estimates that U.S. exports of poultry could increase from the current level of only $300,000 per year to nearly $10 million annually by 2015.

WHEAT

- Despite Morocco's sensitivity to wheat imports, the Agreement provides significant access for U.S. wheat priorities, such as durum wheat.

- The Farm Bureau estimates that wheat exports could increase by five times, from current levels of $23 million per year to $130 million per year by 2015.